Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 00292 060431Z

73
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 066290
R 060400Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8808

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 0292

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CB
SUBJ: SUGGESTION FOR POSTPONEMENT OF PARTY ELECTION

1. ON JANUARY 5 I TOOK TIME OUT FROM THE WAR TO MEET WITH KHJCER PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER HANG THUN HAK TO DISCUSS LON NON'S EFFORTS TO CAPTURE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP OF SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY. IN COURSE OF MEETING I QUESTIONED WHETHER, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD NOT BE PREFERABLE TO POSTPONE DOMESTIC PARTY INFIGHTING UNTIL MILITARY SITUATION HAS CLARIFIED. SINCE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY HAD PLANNED CONGRESS WITH ELECTION OF SECRETARY GENERAL FOR JANUARY 19, I SUGGESTED PARTY LEADERSHIP MAY CONSIDER EITHER POSTPONING CONVENING OF THIS MEETING OR INSTITUTING COLLEGIATE LEADERSHIP AS SYMBOL OF UNITY WITHIN SOCIO-REPBULICAN PARTY. MY OBJECTIVE IS CLEARLY TO PREVENT LON NOL GETTING HIMSELF ELECTED AS SECRETARY GENERAL ON JANUARY 19 AND I AVAILED MYSELF OF PRESSING MILITARY SITUATION IN CAPITAL AREA TO FOIL "LITTLE BROTHER'S" PLANS.

2. HANG THUN HAK FULLY AGREED WITH NEED TO FOCUS ON MILITARY SITUATION FIRST AND NOT TO DETRACT FROM WAR EFFORT BY POLITICAL MANEUVERING. HE PLANNED TO SUGGEST THESE IDEAS AT NEXT PARTY MEETING THIS WEEK, BUT SUGGESTED THAT I ALSO MENTION MY THOUGHTS TO THE MARSHAL IN ORDER TO OBTAIN HIS SUPPORT. I INTEND TO DO SO TODAY WHEN I SEE HIM TO INTRODUCE UNDER SECRETARY MAW.
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DEAN

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NNN

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To: STATE
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